

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-53, 55, 57-62 and 64-74 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 8-17, 21-26, 49-53, 55, 57-62 and 64-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaggar (U.S. Pat. No. 5,701,493) in view of Shelor (U.S. Pat. No. 7,024,544). Claims 27-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaggar and Shelor in view of Kerr et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0159021). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner acknowledges that Jaggar fails to disclose the limitation that the encoded address has a length that is less than $x + y$ bits. Instead, the Examiner relies on Shelor to disclose this limitation. Applicants respectfully submit that Shelor is not a valid prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The present application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/468,802, filed May 7, 2003. Shelor has a filing date of June 24, 2003. In other words, the effective filing date of the present application predates the filing date of Shelor. As such, Shelor is not a valid prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

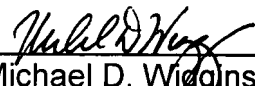
Applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims should be allowable for at least the above reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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